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# PelhamNEWS

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## inside

### WEAR RED FOR TORCH MONDAY

The Olympic Torch comes to town Monday. Pelham will celebrate starting with hockey and figure skating at the arena, cheering the torch runners between 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., and entertainment at the Fonthill bandshell with torch photos ops.

Put on red mitts and clothes to cheer.  
See story on Page 2

### 12TH ANNUAL PARADE: One of the biggest in the event's history

## Santa still a star

MARYANNE FIRTH  
PelhamNEWS Staff

The anticipation of Jolly Old St. Nick's arrival kept hundreds of people warm Saturday during the 12th annual Santa Claus parade in Fenwick.

People lined the streets bundled in winter gear to watch the parade make its way from Bethany Christian Reformed Church and travelling through downtown Fenwick before ending at Centennial Park on Church St.

Parade marshal Fred Disher said this year's parade was one of the biggest in the event's history, with more than 35 entries travelling down the route.

He was impressed not only by the number of groups that came out to participate in the parade, but also by the quality of the floats.

The E.L. Crossley Marching Band, P.K. Hummingbird Steel



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Santa and Mrs. Claus parade through the streets of Fenwick Saturday, where hundreds lined a route that ended at festivities staged at Centennial Park.

Bend and Dragon Rital Drummers were all a hit with the crowd.

The amount of people gathered to watch the parade and those who participated in the post-parade celebration increased from years past, Disher said, thanks in part to the nice weather.

"We couldn't have done any better," he said of the sunny weather that kept spirits up

despite the chilly December temperature.

"It was just as perfect as it could get for a December day."

As usual, Santa Claus was the "star attraction" at the celebration, Disher said.

The big man in the red suit and Mrs. Claus closed the parade, riding together, waving and giving Christmas greetings to the young and young at heart who'd been waiting to see them.

Once the parade was over, the celebration continued at Centennial Park where a variety of free activities, sponsored by the Fenwick Lions, were available for people to enjoy.

"The parade gives the Fenwick Lions a chance to provide activities and celebrate with the kids, and get the community involved," Disher said.

See PARADE | Page 3

See Inside: **PUPP'S**  
**INSERTS**  
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# upfront

■ **2010 OLYMPICS:** Showing that Pelham has spirit of champions

## Carrying a torch for the Games

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

The route is a little longer than first expected, but Pelham is ready to greet the Olympic Torch on Monday.

The Pelham portion of the run will begin in Welland at Ecole Nouvel Horizon on Quaker Rd., Ward 3 Coun. John Durley told Pelham town council Monday night.

It will go to 1271 Pelham St. where the town portion of the run will officially start.

"At 1:59 p.m. the torch will be passed to the first runner on Pelham St. and the runners and the motorcade will begin its journey along the streets of Pelham," he said.

It will follow a route that goes up Pelham St. to Port Robinson Rd. down to Station St. across with a stop at the RBC branch on Regional Rd. 20 at 2:17 p.m. It will continue west on Regional Rd. 20 past Pelham Printing, where it will shift from runners to a motorcade to the next town.

"Folks are expected to start lining up at 1 p.m.," said Durley.

"At 1:59 p.m. the community route pre-show will begin featuring the E.L. Crossley Marching Band, the army cadet colour party and many of the youth of our town parading down the torch run route distributing Olympic Torch and Canadian flags."

After the torch leaves Pelham by motorcade, the Crossley band will lead a parade of followers to Peace Park in town square. There



MAGGIE RIOPELLE Staff Photo

The Town of Pelham is gearing up for the Torch Run by raising the flags for the festivities which will be held on Monday. Holding the flag are Ward 3 Coun. John Durley and town manager of community services Vickie VanRenswae.

they will be entertained by the Treblaires, A.K. Wigg School choir and Solstice. Free hot chocolate, cake and cookies will be available in the park.

"The local torch bearers will be present and the actual Olympic torches carried on route will be available for viewing and photos at Peace Park," Durley said.

Pelham Business Association will hold its Christmas in Pelham Passport draw at Peace Park.

While activities will continue

until 4 p.m., they begin at 9 a.m. in the Pelham Arena, where Pelham Minor Hockey's novice division will host a skills competition until 10 a.m.

From 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Pelham Figure Skating Club members will present skating routines.

"This program featuring skaters of different ages, promises to be an entertaining and majestic way to bring arena events to a close," said Durley.

He encouraged Torch Run spectators to wear red and said the sales of red mittens from town hall have gone very well.

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp said the Torch Run will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most people and shouldn't be missed.

Durley said it will be a very fun and exciting day.

"All we need is the co-operation of the weather man."

ucampbell@wellandtribune.ca

■ **TOWN COUNCIL**

## Aid to hospital

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

Which hospital is Pelham's?

The debate returned to town council's table Monday during a general committee review of permissive grant requests. Those requests will go on to 2010 operating budget review in the new year.

The Welland Hospital Foundation, which raises money for equipment purchases at the hospital, asked the town for \$40,000 a year over five years to help purchase a CT scanner.

For the past two years, the town has given the hospital foundation \$20,000 taken from surplus funds left from the year before. Town staff recommended doing the same thing this year.

"For 2010, an increase of \$40,000 would have a significant impact on taxpayers," said director of financial services Carl Pupo in her report.

Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook pushed for a more definite position.

"Pelham residents use the hospital," she said. "The town's response should be to contribute to the health and welfare of our residents. We should contribute to equip that hospital."

She said Welland is Pelham's hospital.

She was supported by Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp who said "this community must make financial contributions to the Welland hospital site."

However, Mayor Dave Augustyn, Ward 1 Coun. Jim Lane, Ward 3 Coun. John Durley, Ward 2 Dave Emmons and Ward 1 Coun. Debbie Urbanowicz resisted locking into a contribution before the operating budget review.

Urbanowicz said she would like to see what Pelham is contributing to the new St. Catharines hospital through regional and direct grants first.

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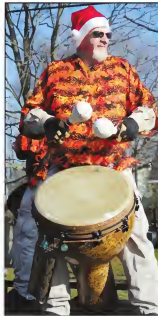
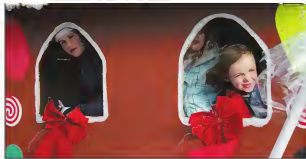
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## PARADE



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photos

Clockwise from top left: The E.L. Crossley Marching Band braved the chilly December weather to keep the crowds along the parade route entertained. Jennifer and Elliot Alkemade greet Old St. Nick with an excited wave. The Dragon Ritual Drummers kept the crowd pumped as they made their way down the parade route. Children peek out from a gingerbread house float sponsored by Queensbury Securities Inc. A man does his uncanny Popeye impression to put smiles on the faces of parade watchers.



## Hotdogs, hot chocolate and chili warm up paradegoers at Centennial Park

FROM PAGE 1

Children enjoyed pony rides, hay rides, train rides, face painting and even had a chance to visit with Santa and have a picture taken inside his cozy workshop.

Disher said the day is all about the children enjoying themselves and experiencing some holiday joy at no cost.

"It's all centred around the kids," he said, adding the free activities make it possible for everyone to participate and have

a good time.

"It gives everyone a chance to do a real old-fashioned community event and they don't have to worry about the cost."

Families lined up to have free hot chocolate, apple cider, chili and hotdogs, and children were treated with a big bag of Christmas candies.

Disher credits local businesses for contributing financially to the parade and celebration, making the event possible.

"It's truly a community effort to put the event on."

Dozens of Fenwick Lions, Lionses and local students volunteered their time to hand out goodies to the crowd and make sure the celebration ran smoothly, he added.

Michael Lowry and wife Michelle, of Fonthill, brought their two daughters out to the parade for the first time Saturday.

Three-year-old Sarah asked mom and dad to take her to see Santa in the parade, so they decided to make it a family outing.

Michael said the family was

impressed by the quality of the parade and the free food and activities available at the celebration.

Michelle said the family would definitely be attending the parade again in the future, hopefully making it a new tradition in the Lowry household.

Linda Nolin, of Fenwick, has been bringing her grandchildren to the parade for a number of years.

She said she fell in love with the event and the community feeling that fills the atmosphere at Cen-

tennial Park.

She was pleased the activities were offered free of charge because "not everyone can afford the extra cost, especially at Christmas."

"I like seeing the people and having some candy," Nolin said with a laugh.

Her favourite part of the event, however, is all the attention that's showered on the attending children. "They do it all for them," she said.

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# PelhamNEWS

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## perspective



Wayne Campbell  
 EDITOR

# comment

## ■ DENTAL ASSOCIATION: Providing toys and cash for Pelham Cares



Supplied photo

Dr. John Perri, president of the Niagara Peninsula Dental Association, stands with staff from Community Care behind children at the Community Care warehouse. During the recent NPDA Christmas dinner, more than 50 unwrapped toys and \$250 were collected and donated.

## The next step toward replacing Fenwick fire hall

Town staff erected a yellow sign last Friday at 766 Welland Rd. The sign, which indicated that the property has started the process of being rezoned, says "to permit the development of a fire station."

You see, the town recently finalized the agreement of purchase and sale for the 1.96-hectare property that is required to replace for Pelham Fire Station No. 2 at Welland and Canboro Roads in Fenwick.



Dave Augustyn  
 MAYORAL VIEW

You will recall that in August 2006, council established a Fire Station No. 2 replacement committee.

The committee determined that the town needs a new fire station for several reasons: the current vehicle bays do not have enough room for future vehicle requirements; parts of the 60-year-old building are structurally inadequate and are cracking and deteriorating there is not enough on-site parking for the volunteer firefighters during calls; there are significant safety concerns with fire fighters backing up vehicles into the bays after each call.

The committee also determined that the required improvements cannot occur on the current site.

An additional vehicle bay attached to the current building would eliminate vehicle parking for the volunteer firefighters, for example.

The committee developed a "site criteria matrix" to help establish the best location.

Using the matrix, the committee evaluated existing public lands. Those lands ranked less than 55% of the requirements for an ideal site.

In December 2008 and January 2009, the committee invited public landowners to submit options for a new site; these sites were evaluated against the site criteria matrix.

The 766 Welland Rd. property received the highest score — well above all other properties.

The northern portion of the site, which is in the urban boundary, will accommodate the new fire station, most of the parking and the driveway.

The southern portion — approximately 1.04 hectares — is adjacent to Centennial Park and could provide much-needed emergency access to the park.

The federal and provincial investments of \$990,000 each make the \$2.9-million project possible.

See AUGUSTYN | Page 5

## A little goes a long way

Pelham's new sidewalk-clearing bylaw creates an opportunity for neighbourhood and community building.

Starting this winter property owners will have to clear sidewalks in front of their homes, businesses and institutions within 24 hours of a "snow event."

That means the end of a snowfall or ice storm.

For the first month, bylaw enforcement people will first hand out a warning regarding property owners who do not meet the 24-hour limit to do it within the next 24 hours.

The month of warnings is an introduction and education period. Staff can work out potential problems and homeowners and business people can get used to the system.

If you don't clear sidewalks within the required period, then the costs start. The town will arrange for someone — town staff or contractors — to do it. The cost of the work gets tagged onto your tax bill.

The whole point of the exercise is to ensure children going to school; joggers and walkers out for exercise and seniors walking to the store or a gathering — not to do it so often.

That's what the jargon surrounding "the walkable community" is all about.

The best way to make this work is by neighbours, family and the community helping those who may have problems shovelling.

See PERSPECTIVE | Page 5

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## Activities of the regional bicycling committee

The Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee was established as an advisory committee in 1995. The committee meets every six weeks and includes some of the most skilled and capable members who are passionate about cycling and desire to create Niagara as the premier cycling venue in Ontario for its citizens and visitors.

The committee began a strategic planning process in November 2006 and took its findings to Regional Council for approval in November 2007. The RNBC developed three strategic areas of focus: work toward the implementation of council's approved Regional Bicycles Network to ensure dedicated space for cyclists; assist municipalities to develop and implement policies that support cycling including interconnected multi-modal pathways and trails both on-road and off-road and support facilities such as bike storage, bus and train racks and public washrooms; maintain partnerships with local, provincial and bi-national groups and communities to facilitate and promote cycling.

The committee has identified priority actions to guide its deliberations through to 2011. For the network:

- Design and implement bikeways signage.
- Continue the implementation of the Regional Niagara Bicycles Master Plan Network.



Brian Baty  
 REGIONAL VIEW

vinical and bi-national groups and communities to facilitate and promote cycling.

The committee has identified priority actions to guide its deliberations through to 2011.

For the network:

- Design and implement bikeways signage.
  - Continue the implementation of the Regional Niagara Bicycles Master Plan Network.
- A review of the network is due early in the next term of council. Pelham citizens may want to develop a municipal cycling network and then determine if some changes are needed to interact with the regional Network. In particular, the new housing developments by the Fonthill firehall, the Halist Rd. changes and the east Fonthill and east Fenwick developments require a review of cycling routes.

For policy planning:

- Work with municipal staff and stakeholders to incorporate the bike network and support the cycling policies in local municipal planning;
- Provide input on issues or public works undertakings that have a cycling component.

Of concern to Pelham is the improvement of main arteries that can safely accommodate cyclists. For instance, further roadwork on Ellingham St. should consider safety of cyclists and future consideration of asphalt rather than tar and stone chip construction.

For education, enforcement:

- To develop a third edition of the regional bicycling map
- To update RNBC display and resource materials for outreach and advocacy

Pelham residents can obtain a copy of the bike map from most cycling shops or online (Google RNBC). There are about 250 bike routes on-line at the Niagara Region website, www.niagararegion.ca. Click on "Exploring" then "Cycling." You can now sort routes by community, by difficulty, by length and soon by theme.



## ■ AUGUSTYN

## Architect must be hired

FROM PAGE 4

Following the re-zoning of the property, the town will need to hire an architect to design the facility for this specific property.

A site plan will also have to be approved. The site plan will ensure that the property's uses fit as well as possible to the uses of surrounding properties.

This plan will likely make use of fencing and landscaping to minimize any impact on neighbouring properties.

Construction could begin in the spring of 2010 with completion in late fall.

You may contact Mayor Dave at [mayordave@pelham.ca](mailto:mayordave@pelham.ca) or read past columns at [www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com](http://www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com).

## ■ PERSPECTIVE

## Snow shovelling squads

FROM PAGE 4

That's easily done.

Ask if the guy next door needs his walk cleared while you're out clearing yours.

Send your teenaged sons and daughters over to give the relatives a hand.

Once you've fired up your snowblower, cut a path along the sidewalks on the street. It will give your neighbours a start at clearing.

If someone does that for you, walk down and help him trim snow from his or her sidewalk.

Schools could create volunteer squads — snow shovel clubs — to work with neighbours, the town or Pelham Cares to assist those who can't shovel.

A little co-operation can avoid tax bills and create a safer community through the winter.



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## It's Never too Late to Quit Smoking...

Is your New Year's Resolution to quit smoking?

Let's be honest. It takes a lot of willpower to quit smoking but here are some scary facts to think about the next time you light up. According to the Canadian Lung Association, tobacco kills about 45,000 Canadians a year. That's more than the total number of deaths from car accidents, suicide, murder, fire, AIDS and accidental poisoning combined. Another sobering thought is fact that there are over 4,000 dangerous chemicals in cigarettes, cigars and pipe smoke. Just a few of those chemicals are: carbon monoxide, arsenic, ammonia, acetone, hydrogen cyanide, lead, formaldehyde, butane etc. Smokers are at very high risk for many diseases including: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (including emphysema and chronic bronchitis), all types of cancers, coronary heart disease, circulatory problems, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, pneumonia, influenza, the common cold and much more.

Second-hand smoke also causes most of the same serious health issues listed here and Physicians for

a Smoke-Free Canada estimate that every year, second-hand smoke kills from 1100 - 7800 Canadians.

There is no magic formula to quit smoking, only your desire to quit and solid support. If you are ready to quit, we are ready to help. Smokers Cleanse is a smoking cessation product that will target the 3 areas that significantly affect the likelihood of success. Smokers Cleanse uses herbs, vitamins, and amino acids that target the lungs to expel mucous and soothe bronchial passages. It provides craving support to reduce cravings and also provides stress relief to reduce anxiety and promote restful sleep. Smokers Cleanse is the ultimate aid to help you stop smoking.

It's never too late to quit. By stopping now, you can reduce your risk of cancer, lung and heart disease. You can also stop your lung from getting even more damaged. Within one year of quitting smoking, your risk of dying of a heart attack drops by half. Quitting is worth it. You're worth it.

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## A lonely hearts Christmas

*"It was the best of times. It was the worst of times..."*

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

Mr. Dickens was describing the French revolution, but his words also happen to accurately describe what it's like to be a part of the music business.



Arnie Dyker  
HUMOUR

Dec. 24, 1974, 5 p.m.

Brendan and Arnie are having a humble Christmas Eve dinner. It's not much of a dinner, at not much of a diner on not much of a day before Christmas.

The two young men have become close friends in their three years together in the "band business."

Brendan has been a professional guitar player since he quit school at 16 to go on the road with a blues group. It was there that he learned the nutritional value of peanut butter sandwiches, the heating and bug problems of two-bit hotel rooms and the threat to life and limb of winter highways.

That experience has also taught him the value of going back to school. He's learned that if your first career choice is to be a professional musician, a backup second choice is a really, really good idea. For everyone but the tiniest fraction, the musician's life, on its own, is a peanut butter sandwich way to make a living.

For the moment, he's giving the "no musician" thing one last shot, attending school by day and playing college, university and high school dances and concerts Thursday

through Saturday every week.

And Arnie's role in this story? Well, three years ago, Arn completed his schooling — four years of university earning a degree in chemistry, and a year at the Ontario College of Education, in Toronto, getting his qualifications to teach high school.

But when he finished teachers college, he came to the conclusion: "This isn't the right thing for me."

And for reasons that ultimately relate to his next-door neighbor being a rather gifted young musician who is, in the year 2009, making his living from his music, Arn took up part-time band management during his last 18 months of schooling.

This pleased his parents.

Then, when Arnie finished his final year of schooling, he decided that he wasn't going to go off to be a chemist, or a teacher, or work a factory, or anything that brought in enough money to live on. He was going to have an adventure. He was going to become a full-time rock band manager. To do this, he'd have to move back in with his parents for a while, after five years away, until things took off with the adventure, because otherwise he'd starve.

This pleased his parents immensely. To be fair, the musicians Arn was working with were good enough to have reason to think a professional career would be possible. Lots of the ones he dealt with on some level, and a few of those he managed, did just that. One made it big.

To be fair, Arnie was a good manager. Not so good, though, that he could prevent parts of the group from breaking off like he branches in a heavy wind, due to the personal needs that involved everything from straight-up ego to "got a full-time day job — it's time music" thing one last shot, attending school by day and playing college, university and high school dances and concerts Thursday

See DYKER | Page 8



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## ■ BANNER OF HOPE AND SUPPORT

# Troops thanked

MARYANNE FIRTH  
PelhamNEWS Staff

The message was delivered loud and clear.

It's been weeks since more than 1,200 students signed the Banner of Hope and Support to send to troops in Afghanistan to help raise their spirits.

With the words "Thank-you from Canada" written in big bold letters, the banner was filled with inspirational messages for Canadian troops from the children of Niagara. The banner arrived in Kabul last week and soldiers were quick to respond to it.

E.L. Crossley teacher Lea Bowman, who helped to organize the banner initiative, received an e-mail response from her cousin Sgt. Chris Neilson who is serving his third rotation in Afghanistan. Neilson not only told Bowman the banner had arrived, but sent over some special photos for her to share with the children who signed the inspirational gift.

Soldiers took an impromptu trip to Queen's Palace — where the Canadian troops first had their headquarters when they arrived in Kabul — to hang the banner proudly.

They took photos of the banner hanging from the second and third floors of the palace as a thank you to those back home.

In an e-mail to *The Tribune*, Neilson said it was "a very humbling experience" to receive the banner.

"For a lot of my guys here in the section it's their very first tour, and to have the support and love that was shown, especially by the kids of the Niagara Region, it was awesome."

Neilson, of St. Catharines, said troops have been busy reading the banner, which is now hung in Canada House — the section's central rest point where morning meetings are held.

"It has become a huge morale and conversation piece. Everyone is incredibly happy it's here. We were very proud to receive something like this. For me this is huge, being the hometown boy," Neilson said, grateful for the support from the region.

He said much has changed over the years in the amount of support coming from within the area. During his early tours in the 1990s as a peacekeeper in Bosnia, there was little support.

"I'm glad to see that things have changed, because believe it or not, we have a very large amount (of troops) serving in the Canadian Forces that come from within the Niagara region



Supplied Photo

Sgt. Chris Neilson, of St. Catharines, and Cpl. Brian Hayward, of Mount Forest, Ont., hold the Banner of Hope and Support at Queen's Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan. The banner was signed by more than 1,200 children from across Niagara and sent to the troops just in time for the holidays.

itself." Neilson said having children take the time to "wish us all the best, to know they're thinking of us is truly amazing and humbling all at the same time."

The group wanted to thank the children for their efforts by finding the right moment

to take some photos and show off the banner.

Neilson is in Afghanistan as part of National Support Element Detachment Kabul. His section acts as the logisticians for the task force. He works as a traffic technician, specializing in air movements, co-ordi-

nating flow of personnel and freight in and out of Kabul via Canadian CC-130 Hercules.

Neilson said the section would like to thank everyone, especially the children, who participated in the banner initiative.

"We will always remember this. The guys were totally blown away."

"They probably didn't realize it at the time, but they made my guys' Christmas a little bit more special," he said of the children.

As Bowman shared the photos with her students, she said they were "taken aback."

"It was just silence, and big grins," she said, adding they were thrilled to see the banner hanging in Kabul.

Students hope to turn the initiative into an annual occurrence, so troops overseas are always aware of the support back home.

"You see it sitting here on the table, but to see them holding it, to see it on the other side of the world is just cool," Bowman said of the banner.

"What a neat end to the journey."

Schools involved in the banner initiative include Centennial secondary, École du Scare Coeur, Gordon, Fitch Street, Empire, Glendale, Plymouth, Crowland, Ross, Princess Elizabeth, Quaker Road and Mathews in Welland; E.L. Crossley secondary, A. K. Wigg, Glynn A Green and Pelham Centre in Pelham; and Gainsborough in West Lincoln.

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*- Tim Hudak, MPP*



Tim Hudak, his wife Debbie  
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### ■ HOLIDAY CHEER: Kinsmen donate poinsettias



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Marjorie Hannah and Betty McKee are delighted to receive a poinsettia from Santa Claus and Kin Brendan Young, Fonthill and District Kinsmen Club donated 180 poinsettias to residents in the hospital's Woolcott Wing and extended care unit.

### ■ DYKER

## Arnie 'girlfriend free' too long

FROM PAGE 6

Meanwhile back at our pre-Christmas dinner in the dinky restaurant, Brendan and his friend/manager are at a bit of a low point.

The latest version of the band just broke up, Brendan just split with his girlfriend, Arnie has been "girlfriend free" for longer than a young man should be, and there's no money coming in.

They're commiserating, talking about "Where do we go from here?" and just being alone together feeling forlorn.

In the end, everything will work out. They will take one last run at being a full-time musician and a full-time band manager before moving on to more normal, easier lifestyles.

Brendan will eventually earn a degree in journalism and go on to become a professional newspaper journalist, then editor, with the guitarist role becoming a part-time thing that he does at a professional level of skill, with other former full-timers, for pleasure.

Arnie will end up making use of his chemical degree in his soon-to-be job that will carry him through to retirement, at the "Main Lab" at GM, St. Catharines.

Both will be married within a few years, and remain happily married to

this day.

They will stay close friends for the rest of their lives, and also carry with them several other strong friendships from their days in "the band business."

You may think this is a story about how everything works out in the end. It isn't. We can never know how everything is going to work out.

This is a story about how lousy, lonely days are going to come to us all, and when they do, it doesn't take a whole gang of Christmas revelers to lift your spirits. It takes one person who cares about you.

That person could be a girlfriend, a wife, a close friend, a care-giver, a nurse, or a little boy who spends time with the old man next door. That person could be five years younger, or older, than you. Or ten years, or 30, or 50.

It doesn't matter. If you have that one person around to share the load, a really lousy day will still be less than great.

It just won't be nearly as bad.

And maybe, like Arnie, the person having that bad day will be able to look back and say: "Well it still wasn't a great day. But it was a meaningful one, and I'm richer for the friendship that helped me get through it."

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■ KINSMEN: Serving up a Christmas tradition for 48 years

# St. Nick, fiddlers and a fancy feast, too

WAYNE CAMPBELL  
PelhamNEWS Staff

It was a sellout. If they sold tickets. The Fonthill and District Kinsmen Club had a full house at its 48th annual Pelham Seniors Christmas Party in the Old Pelham Town Hall last Tuesday.

"It's our major service event of the year," said co-ordinator Len Doyle as he looked out over 126 men and women dressed in red and white.

They were being served dinner and coffee by 32 Kin members along with their wives and girlfriends.

"This took about two months to put together," he said. It included co-ordinating donations from business, registering guests and setting up the menu.

The Celtic Fiddle Band provided music with a guest appearance by Amanda Bott, a 12-year-old fiddle player.

Each senior at the party received a poinsettia to take home as well as other gifts.

After a round of carols by Kinsmen, Santa Claus popped in to greet seniors and listen to their requests as they sat on his knee.

"I'm just happy to be here," said Molly Rogers, 97, told Santa and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Lillian Bakker, 90, gave Santa a big kiss and hug to send him off to his Christmas season chores.

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp as acting mayor thank the Kinsmen for continuing this seasonal tradition for the seniors of Pelham.

"It's an important event," he said.

Club member Kevin Twomey looking over the crowded hall said the Kinsmen may have to look for bigger room in the future.

"Look at those smiles," he said. "Too bad we couldn't bottle them for the year."



Top left: Amanda Bott, 12, plays fiddle with John Koholy and the Celtic Fiddle Band during the 48th annual Pelham Seniors Christmas Party sponsored by the Fonthill and District Kinsmen Club. Top Right: the event had a full house of 126 seniors at the Old Pelham Town Hall. Bottom left: Lillian Bakker, 90, gives Santa Claus a hug. Bottom Right: Molly Rogers, 97, tells Santa what she wants for Christmas.

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photos



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■ **FONTHILL LEGION:** Remembrance Day contest winners celebrated

## Creativity rewarded by Branch 613

PelhamNEWS Staff

Jim Summersides remembers his comrades in the Canadian Army and those he lost in the battles of the Second World War.

The Branch 613 Royal Canadian Legion member works hard to help children understand the sacrifice. Each November he serves as representative at Remembrance Day ceremonies, events and class visits to Pelham schools.

Last week he passed out prizes and certificates to Remembrance Day School Contest winners. He was impressed with the time students took to make posters and write poems and essays for Remembrance Day.

"They are bringing Remembrance Day to the fore."

This year 235 students in grades 4 to 12 from 10 schools in the region's Pelham and Welland area entered posters, poems and essays.

During a ceremony at the Fonthill legion hall, 27 cash prizes and certificates were handed out. The winners by category are:

- Colour posters, grades 4-5-6, Max Pasqua of Alexander Kuska, Grant Guillemette of École Nouvel Horizon and Jenna Rosati of Alexander Kuska;

- Colour posters, grades 7-8-9, Andrea Gonzal-

lez Barbosa of St. Alexander, Brianna Tsiantoulas of St. Alexander and Douglas Michael McDermott of St. Alexander;

- Black and white posters, grades 4-5-6, Gabriel Marais of École Nouvel Horizon and Ashlyn Giovannazzo of École Nouvel Horizon;

- Black and white posters, grades 7-8-9, Jason Lourensens of St. Alexander, Nicholas Sacco of Alexander Kuska and Megan Simmonds of E.L. Crossley Secondary School;

- Black and white posters, grades 10-11-12, Erin Prysiazny of E.L. Crossley and Jaclyn Breanne Cook of E.L. Crossley;

- Poems, grades 4-5-6, Madeline Resney of Alexander Kuska, Anna Nero of École Nouvel Horizon and Owen Demers of Alexander Kuska;

- Poems, grades 7-8-9, Holly Stroberg of E.L. Crossley, Emily Reid of St. Alexander and Alex Delle Monache of E.L. Crossley;

- Poems, grades 10-11-12, Natalie Skea of E.L. Crossley, Mark Hendrick Both of E.L. Crossley and Mallory Tyler of E.L. Crossley;

- Essays, grades 4-5-6, John Breton of École Nouvel Horizon and Nicole Pilote of École Nouvel Horizon;

- Essays, grades 7-8-9, Monica Pisani-Konert of St. Alexander, Todd Puharich of E.L. Crossley and Nathan Ciccarelli of St. Alexander.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff photos  
Left: Essay winners are Nicole Pilote and John Breton of École Nouvel Horizon.



Middle: Winners in the poems category, front row from left, Anna Nero of École Nouvel Horizon, Madeline Resney of Alexander Kuska, and Owen Demers of Alexander Kuska; back row from left Mark Hendrick Both of E.L. Crossley, Holly Stroberg of E.L. Crossley, Mallory Tyler of E.L. Crossley, and Natalie Skea of E.L. Crossley.



Above: Poster winners are, front row, left Gabriel Marais of École Nouvel Horizon, Grant Guillemette of École Nouvel Horizon, Max Pasqua of Alexander Kuska and Jenna Rosati of Alexander Kuska; back row from left, Ashlyn Giovannazzo, École Nouvel Horizon, Erin Prysiazny of E.L. Crossley, Jaclyn Breanne Cook of E.L. Crossley and Megan Simmonds of E.L. Crossley.



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## Letters to the editor

### Coffee fund team gives thanks

It is my pleasant responsibility to express on behalf of Branch 613 Royal Canadian Legion, Fonthill, our thanks for your support of our 2009 Kandahar Coffee Fund. All funds contributed will go to the Dominion Command, Royal Canadian Legion Troop Morale Fund, which works with the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency, which operates the Tim Hortons outlet in Afghanistan.

The goal of the Royal Canadian Legion is to provide a certificate biweekly for a coffee and doughnut to members of the Canadian Forces deployed so long as they are in the Afghanistan theatre of operations.

On behalf of the men and women of the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan, we extend our thanks and hope you will continue your support through our Kandahar Coffee Fund 2020.

D. S. Elliott

For Kandahar Coffee Fund Branch 613

### Good will towards Kinsmen

For the past 48 years, our local Kinsmen and their wives have treated the seniors of our community to a Kinsmen Christmas dinner complete with a delicious meal, Celtic music, entertainment and potteries for each family.

Add to this a generous supply of good humour mixed with endless good will.

If empty plates and happy smiles and voices raised in seasonal song are an indication of another successful year of service to Pelham then the Kinsmen did it again — superbly.

This wonderful event held Dec. 8 at the Old Town Hall was attended by well over 100 fortunate seniors, including my 96-year-old mother, Molly, my good friend Rachel and myself.

On their behalf, I wish to thank our Kinsmen for once again hosting this fabulous evening.

With deep gratitude, I would ask that those who attended this memorable event and all other residents support the Kinsmen fundraising activities with the same degree of generosity as the Kinsmen showed to us.

Thanks once again.

Shirley Lazareth  
Fonthill



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## ■ HWY. 20 CRASH: 19-year-old passenger killed

## Driver jailed for 13 months

KARENA WALTER  
QMI Agency

ST. CATHARINES — The family of a 19-year-old man killed in a car crash didn't want speeding driver Henry Wall to go to jail.

Neither did Wall's church community. Neither did Judge Ann Watson.

But Watson said she had no choice on Dec. 8 but to incarcerate Wall because the law no longer allows her to give house arrest in cases like his.

Wall, 19, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, was sentenced to 13 months in jail for the Pelham crash which injured his passenger and best friend Henry Peters, 22, and killed Henry's brother Peter Peters, 19.

Watson said the family of the brothers from Niagara Falls were in support of Wall and didn't want to see him go to jail. "He has been forgiven by them and those in his church community." But she said a conditional sentence is no longer available under recent changes to the criminal code for cases that fall under "serious violent offences."

She told the court that under the old regime, she would have given a conditional sentence of two years less a day to Wall, a first-time offender who she said is not likely to be before the courts again.

Wall pleaded guilty in October to dangerous driv-

ing causing death and dangerous driving causing bodily harm. Assistant Crown attorney Jeff Richardson had asked for an 18-month jail sentence.

Wall's lawyer Charlie Ryall said a lesser range was appropriate, starting at 12 months.

In addition to the 13 months in jail, Wall will serve 12 months of probation and do 80 hours of community service.

He will not be allowed to drive for five years.

The crash happened Feb. 15 at about 10:30 p.m. when the trio of young men were returning from a party in the Tillsonburg area. Wall was driving an Acura RSX-S east on Regional Rd. 20 when he travelled through the intersection of Regional Rd. 24 and lost control. Police said he was travelling 144 km/h in a 70 km/h zone. The car began to spin clockwise due to excessive speeds and Wall over-corrected. The car spun the other way and rotated out of control onto the north shoulder of the road.

It entered a drainage ditch, hit a road sign and a driveway culvert and became airborne. The car landed on the right rear roof in the drainage ditch.

Peter Peters died at the scene. Henry Peters suffered a dislocated elbow, a fractured pelvis, soft tissue injuries and continues to have pain and flashbacks.

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■ **NYC'S NEEDY:** Local florist helps Rivers' cause

Supplied photo

Fonthill florist Jack MacGregor was asked to help American entertainer and celebrity Joan Rivers pass out food to the homeless and needy in New York City on the American Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26. MacGregor has owned and operated J&J Florists at the top of Church Hill for the past 35 years. Rivers is a member of the board of directors for God's Love We Deliver, which operates a kitchen, food delivery and other services for the homeless and needy in New York.

■ **FAITH:** Special services for holidays**FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH**

Church Hill at Hwy. 20

Dec. 20 – Christmas cantata by Fonthill United Choir at 10 a.m.

Dec. 24 – Candlelight communion service at 8 p.m.

Dec. 27 – Joint service at Fonthill United with Fenwick United at 10 a.m.

Jan. 3 – Joint service at Fenwick United with Fonthill United at 10:30 a.m. (fellowship breakfast begins at 9:30 a.m.)

**HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH**

at 1557 Pelham St., Fonthill

Dec. 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Holy Eucharist at 8:30 a.m. Lessons and carols at 10 a.m.

Dec. 24 – Holy Eucharist, with young families in mind, at 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist at 11 p.m.

Dec. 25 – Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 27 – Holy Eucharist at 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist and many Christmas hymns at 10 a.m.

**ST. ALEXANDER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Dec. 24 – Mass at 5 p.m. (children's program at 4:30 p.m.). Carol singing, readings 8 p.m., mass at 8:30 p.m. Carol singing, readings 11:30 p.m. followed by midnight mass

Dec. 25 – Mass at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Dec. 31 – Mass at 5 p.m.

Jan. 1 – Mass only at 10 a.m.

**ST. ANN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
834 Canboro Rd., Fenwick

Dec. 22 and 23 – Tuesday and Wednesday 9:15 a.m. regular weekday masses

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve family mass (for families with young children) 5 p.m. Mass during the night (midnight Mass)

Dec. 25 – Mass at 10 a.m.

Dec. 26 and 27 – Saturday and Sunday regular weekend masses – Feast of the Holy Family

Dec. 29 and 30 – Tuesday and Wednesday 9:15 a.m. regular weekday masses

Dec. 31 – Vigil Solemnity of Mary the Most Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation), 5 p.m.

Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary the Most Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) 10 a.m.

**PELHAM COMMUNITY CHURCH**

461 Canboro Rd., Fenwick

Dec. 20 – Family worship at 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 24 – Family service at 4 p.m. Lessons and carols at 7 p.m. Communion service at 9 p.m.

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It happens fast. Candida can spread over a denture in just 30 minutes! Since Candida actually permeates the acrylic liner of the denture, chronic infection can occur. The common result is denture stomatitis, that is red inflamed sores under the denture. Stomatitis will discourage from wearing the denture at all.

How to resist infection? Keep your mouth tissues in top condition. Remove your dentures more often, especially at night. Let's try to determine what elements of your diet might contribute to fungus growth. Best of all, have us evaluate your denture fit. In severe or chronic cases you may need to see your doctor.

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■ **OPP AUXILIARY:** To protect and serve

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff photo  
Auxiliary OPP Sgt. Brian Cosby gives \$1,500 worth of vouchers to Pelham Cares client services coordinator Betty Brown. Money for the vouchers along with 202 bags of food were received by Auxiliary OPP officers at the Fonthill Sobseys. The vouchers allow Pelham Cares clients to buy fruits, vegetables and other fresh food.

■ **J&J FLORAL EXPRESSIONS:** Mitten and hat tree get warm offering

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Sherry Damm, left, and Amanda VanderWeide of J&J Floral Expressions pass on hats, mittens, scarves and teddy bears from a mitten and hat tree to Pelham Cares volunteers Harold Griffin and George Kowalski. Damm said the florists received about 100 items during the fourth year of their Christmas program. The items will be used by Pelham Cares when it puts together its family Christmas packages.

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Pelham athletes featured in  
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■ **LOSING END:** Falls too strong in season-ender

## Major atom Panthers wrap up basketball league play

For PelhamNEWS

The Pelham Panthers Major Atom Boys wrapped up their regular season league play with a win over St. Catharines CYO and a loss in the final game for first place vs. the Niagara Falls Red Raiders.

Pelham's defence came to play against the St. Catharines CYO Rebel on Nov. 29.

Thanks to some intense pre-game preparations by Coaches Paul Grummett and Andrew Mosley, the Panthers used basic six-shooter court positioning and help defense to stymie a normally potent Rebel offense.

Using a balanced scoring attack, Pelham was able to build an eight-point first half lead and hold it on the way to 30-22 win.

Finishing second in the round-robin league play, Pelham took on the challenge of facing the potent Red Raiders in the final.

The Panthers again played a very tough defensive game for the first half, and executed patiently on offense.

A buzzer beating shot from close to Main St. by Tyler Grummett kept the Panthers to within three points as half time ended. The second half was a different story for Pelham. The Falls came out on fire after the break and

went on a 21-6 run. The Raiders seemed to find their shooting range and pounded the boards scoring second-chance points when they missed. Pelham did go on a late run in the final four minutes, but it was too little too late and Niagara ended up coming on top 49-33.

Leading Pelham's two-game stats were Owen Gallagher (16 points, 6 rebounds), Josh Mosley (12 points), Bailey Moreau (10 points, six assists) and Chris Fairman (seven points).

Having another good all-around series was Tyler Grummett with six points, nine rebounds, 10 assists, seven steals and three blocked shots for good measure.

The Panthers also got good two-way play from Jared Naar (six points, six rebounds), Kyle Cooper (four points, seven rebounds) and Mackenzie Brown (two points, four rebounds, two assists).

Pelham's backcourt players and small forwards (Jacob Dottori, Ben Kalchman, Jordan Pisano and Gabriel Marais) continued to show their grit and determination on the court in helping the team reach the league final.

Next up for the Panther major atom boys was "tournament season," which started Dec. 11 with a big event hosted by the St. Catharines CYO Rebels.



Supplied photo

Pelham's No. 11 Owen Gallagher shows his game by scoring over a Red Raider defender in Niagara Basketball League Final action. Pelham played tough, but ended up on the losing end of a 49-33 game.

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## sports

■ **TORCH RUN**

## Flying on skates

PelhamNEWS Staff

You will see the spirit of the Olympics at work in the Pelham Arena Monday.

As a leadup to the Olympic Torch run through Pelham novice players from the Pelham Minor Hockey Association will stage a skills competition from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the arena.

They will be followed by members of the Pelham Figure Skaters Club demonstrating the moves that figure skaters will use in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

The Olympics will flow through about two weeks from Feb. 12 to Feb. 28.

The Olympic Torch will be carried through downtown Fonthill Monday afternoon arriving just before 2 p.m. on Pelham St.

## ■ sportsbriefs

### BRIEFS HEAD

A tender for \$180,723.70 from Anthony's Excavating & Bicho Farms Inc. was recommended by town council's general committee Monday. It also supported engineering service from AECOM Canada for engineering services for the relocation of ball diamond 2 at Centennial Park in Fenwick.

The diamond is being moved to create space for a proposed parking lot in accordance with a 2003 master plan for the Fenwick park.

Ward 1 Coun. Jim Lane asked if the parking lot was necessary now that there will be additional parking at a new Fenwick fire hall. It will be built beside the park. People coming to exercise on the diamond should be able to walk from a parking lot, he said.

Kelly Welsh, director of community and infrastructure services, said the parking at the new fire hall will be filled when the fire hall is in use by firefighters.

The park itself has a shortage of parking now, he said.

Current users of the diamond are aware it will not be available for use in 2010, he said. The work will not be completed until into the summer.

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■ **WOOD STOVES:** Pelham's fire chief issues a reminder about holiday safety

## Hot ashes deposited in plastic container spark \$25,000 patio fire on Effingham St.

PelhamNEWS Staff

Ashes from a wood stove disposed of in a plastic container at the back of a house caused an estimated \$25,000 damage to the patio and rear of an Effingham St. home last Thursday morning.

Two people received some smoke exposure but apparently declined treatment, said Pelham fire Chief Scott McLeod about the fire at a house near Metler Rd.

About twice a year the fire department responds to fires

caused by the misbandling of wood stove ashes, he said.

Today people are unfamiliar with wood burning stoves and fireplaces.

They don't realize ashes remain warm for a long time and turn into charcoal, he said.

Tossing water on them can pro-



Scott McLeod

duce large amounts of carbon monoxide.

You shouldn't be too quick to clean ashes out of a wood stove, he said. When you do you should store them in a metal container.

In recent couple of weeks the fire department has been called out two kitchen fires.

In one, a stove element was left on that ignited a Christmas decoration on the stove and plastic element covers.

In the other one, grease in an oven caught fire.

McLeod advised against fighting a kitchen fire.

"Get out, close the door and call 911. If you fight it, you can do more damage to yourself and your home than if you don't."

Risks include flaring up grease fires, scalding yourself with steam and burning yourself with hot water.

During the holiday season the Pelham Fire Department urges families to be especially vigilant about fire safety.

"This is a very busy time for

many people and it's easy to get distracted or forgetful," said McLeod.

"All it takes is for a pot to be left on the stove, or a candle left burning unattended and a family's holiday celebrations can go up in smoke. I would also like to remind everyone about the law requiring working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas," he said. "Take a few minutes to test your smoke alarms and install new batteries, if needed."

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# localbrief

## CHAMBER ADDRESSES HST

Harmonized Sales Tax will help Ontario compete in a tough economy and businesses will realize administrative cost savings — but that won't stop the public from screaming at the gas pumps when fuel prices jump 8¢ on July 1, 2010.

Remember to fill up the tank on

June 30," commodity tax specialist Theresa Beringer, of Durward, Jones, Barkwell and Co., told a roomful of anxious Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce members last Friday.

Beringer provided a condensed overview of the new tax legislation during a chamber Power Breakfast at LaCantina Restaurant.

Harmonized sales tax has been the goal of government for years, but tough economic times was "the trigger" that pushed politicians to act, Beringer said.

Supported by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the HST is supposed to be "revenue neutral." That doesn't mean there won't be winners and losers.

Under the new legislation, small businesses with sales under \$2 million will receive up to \$1,000 in transitional support.

Utility costs, veterinary services, prescriptions and other items not previously subject to provincial sales tax will now be subject to HST. A 1% reduction in the personal tax

rate will help buffer the impact of the HST. That works out to about \$540. Hockey fees will go up because ice rentals will be taxable after July 1. Golfers paying annual fees after May 1, 2010 will get hit with an 8% increase. Businesses that ship out-of-province will need to be wary of shipping receipts.

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